Impact of Deforestation in Bhutan on India

2471. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received that extensive deforestation in Bhutan has aggravated the danger of floods in the northern districts of West Bengal and also caused harm to plantation activities in the tea gardens;

(b) whether Government propose to take up the matter with the Bhutan authorities', and

(c) whether it is proposed to solicit the assistance of the SAARC organisation for resolving such bilateral issues?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government have received reports to this effect from certain quarters in West Bengal.

(b) Government is engaged in assisting Bhutan in her environmental protection activities such as the extensive programme of reforestation which is already underway in Bhutan.

(c) It is not government's policy to take any bilateral issues to SAARC which is precluded by its charter from considering them.

Interpreters in the Ministry of External Affairs

2472. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Foreign Language Interpreters, language-wise, in the Ministry;

(b) whether the cadre rules for their promotion have been finalised; and

(c) if so, the details of these rules?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There are 24 (twenty four) Foreign Language Interpreters in the Ministry of External Affairs; Arabic-7, Chinese-3, French-2, German-2, Japanese-1, Persian-3, Russian-3, and Spanish-3.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Copy of the rules is enclosed in the Statement.

Statement

Ministry of External Affairs

New Delhi, the 24th October, 1994

G.S.R. 582—In exercise of the powers conferred by tiie proviso to article 309 of the Constitution and in supersession of the Ministry of External Affairs (Interpreters' Cadre) Recruitment Rules, 1978, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the President hereby makes the following rules regulating the method of recruitment to certain Group 'A' posts of the Interpreters' in the Ministry of External Affairs, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement— (1) These rules may be called the Ministry of External Affairs (Interpreters' Cadre) Recruitment Rules 1994.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the official Gazette.

2. Number of Posts, Classification and Scale of pay.— The number of the posts, their classification and the scales of pay attached thereto, shall be as specified in columns (2) to (4) of the schedule annexed to these rules.

3.. Method of Recruitment, age limit qualifications etc.— The method of recruitment to the posts, age limit, qualifications and other matters relating thereto, shall be at specified in columns (5) to (14) of the said Schedule.